

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger. I also have sent these questions and suggestions to Dish and to the WV delegation

-----Original Message----- Name: Dave

Account Number:

Website Section: Charlie Chat

Subject: Programming Message:

Hi Charlie:

Several comments for you to respond to.

1. I have been a customer for a long time. My customer number is in the first 60000 customers that you signed up. I have never had any of the problems that were described in a letter from Ohio, to the editor of USA today last week. You have great service.

2. Billing statement details.

Electric companies and gas companies break down billing so that the cost of sending the product to my home is separate from the cost of the product. This allows me to select my product supplier from a list based on price.

Cable companies and dbx companies are the delivery systems and programming is the product that is delivered to my home.

I want to see my billing statement (on line) breaking down my costs for delivery from my costs for EACH program.

This would make each supplier of programming compete for customers on price and content.

3. Many of the channels that you deliver to my home must pay Dish network to be carried. The shopping channels as an example.

4. Then based on price per channel and content that I want, I could compare Cable to dbx and choose my carrier and my programming based on what my wallet and my interests dictate not what package cable or dbx wants me to buy.

5. Free market choice of broadcasting.'

Remember Charlie, when we only had radio? I could install an

outside antenna wire and receive distant radio station across the country and on shortwave around the world. No one worried about coverage area. You listened to the programming most compelling to you and no one limited your choice of which distant programming that you could listen to.

Now fast forward to 1955 and first cable system in Coalwood WV. In order to get TV an antenna system had to be raised on a hill top to get a distant signal from Charleston or Oak Hill or Huntington or Bluefield. No one

said that that was wrong to view distant tv signals. The customer was wanting a product so badly that they were willing to pay for an antenna system high on a hill and cables to their home to get tv.

6. Now fast f